



The

FLASH

REBIRTH

3

AUG '09

JOHNS
VAN SCIVER



DIRECT SALES



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**"FILLED WITH
SUPERB MOMENTS..."**

— *Ain't It Cool News*
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CENTRAL CITY.

I WARNED YOU,
MAGICIAN.

THERE ISN'T
ROOM IN THIS
CENTURY FOR THE
BOTH OF US.

ARRRGHHH!

ABRA--

--KADABRA!

BWOSH

NEW YORK CITY.

HEADQUARTERS OF
THE JUSTICE SOCIETY
OF AMERICA.



JESSE?

HONT DR, MID-NITE SAID YOU
SHOULDN'T BE ON YOUR FEET.
YOU MIGHT RISK TRIGGERING
YOUR TIE TO THE SPEED
FORCE AGAIN.

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING OUT
HERE?

WHY'D THEY
PUT THEM TOGETHER
LIKE THIS, RICKY?

MY PARENTS
SEPARATED WHEN
I WAS A KID.



JOHNNY QUICK AND
LIBERTY BELLE WERE THE
QUINTESSENTIAL COUPLE
OF THE ALL-STAR
SQUADRON, JESS.

PEOPLE LIKE
TO REMEMBER
THINGS IN THEIR
BEST LIGHT.



IF BECOMING LIBERTY BELLE BROUGHT
YOU CLOSER TO YOUR MOTHER,
YOUR DAD WOULD'VE THOUGHT IT
WAS A GOOD THING.

I HOPE
SO.

WHAT WOULD
DAD THINK IF HE
CAME BACK?

I TRIED TO
FILL HIS BOOTS BY
BECOMING JESSE QUICK.
BUT WHEN MY CONNECTION
TO THE SPEED FORCE
WEAKENED, I LET IT SLIP
AWAY AND I RAN
TOWARDS MY
MOTHER.

EVEN THOUGH IT
WAS DAD WHO WAS
ALWAYS THERE FOR ME.
WHO ALWAYS
SUPPORTED ME.



KRAK!!



FALLVILLE, IOWA.

I RECOGNIZE SOME OF THEM AS THEY ARRIVE. A LOT OF THE OTHERS ARE ENTIRELY NEW TO ME.

KRAKOOOMMM

BUT THEY'RE ALL HERE TO DO THE SAME THING.

WE'RE GOING TO HELP YOU, BARRY.

KAZZAAATF

PLEASE, WALLY. STAY AWAY FROM ME.

THEY WANT TO BRING A DEAD MAN BACK TO LIFE.



IT'S STILL HARD TO LOOK RALLY IN THE EYES. THE LAST TIME I REALLY SPENT TIME WITH HIM, HE WAS A GOOD FOUR INCHES SHORTER. HIS SHOULDERS WEREN'T AS BROAD, AND HE WASN'T WEARING THE UNIFORM.

IT FITS HIM THOUGH.

I KNEW IT WOULD.



MY BODY MUST BE PROCESSING INORDINATE AMOUNTS OF SPEED FORCE TO KEEP ME HERE.

IT'S TAKING EVERY BIT IT CAN, BUT IT WANTS MORE.

I FEEL GUILTY.



I'VE NEVER FELT GUILTY.

THAT'S WHY WE'RE GOING TO SEPARATE YOU FROM THE SPEED FORCE, BARRY.

KAZAAT

WHILE RALLY HAS GOTTEN OLDER, JAY'S GOTTEN YOUNGER IN ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM. I'VE HEARD WHAT HE'S DONE WITH THE JUSTICE SOCIETY. HOW HE'S TRAINING THE KIDS OF THE FUTURE.

JAY ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A FATHER.

IN SOME WAYS, HE'S LIKE JUNE WAS. A MAN WHO LOVED FACTS, A MAN WHO LOVED HIS WIFE.

A GOOD MAN.

THE BLACK AURA CRACKLING AROUND YOU IS MADE UP OF "DEAD FUEL CELLS," BUT THEY'RE STILL BURNING THROUGH THE SPEED FORCE AT AN UNQUANTIFIABLE RATE.

WE'RE GOING TO INCREASE THE VIBRATIONAL FREQUENCY INSIDE THIS CHAMBER TO THE VERY EDGE OF MULTIVERSE TRANSCENDENCE. WE'LL DISCHARGE THE CORRUPTED LIGHTNING RUNNING THROUGH YOUR VEINS, AND WE'LL SEVER YOUR TIE FROM IT.

ESSENTIALLY, YOU'LL BE GROUNDED BACK TO EARTH AND THEN...

...YOU WON'T BE THE FASTEST MAN ANYMORE, BUT YOU WILL BE ALIVE.



WHAT ABOUT MAX?

WHAT
HAPPENED TO
MAX MERCURY,
GRANDPA?

BART?

YOU'RE
SUPPOSED TO BE AT MY
HOUSE WITH LINDA AND
THE TWINS. IT MIGHT NOT
BE SAFE HERE.

I KNEW THERE
WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT
TOO. THE MOMENT I GOT
BACK, I FELT IT.

BART!

I THOUGHT IT
WAS MAX. I THOUGHT
HE WAS FREE.

BART ALLEN, MY
GRANDSON FROM
THE FUTURE.

A BOY I BARELY
KNOW.

IF THERE WAS EVER
A SYMBOL, MY
TIME HAS PAST.
IT'S STANDING
RIGHT IN FRONT
OF ME.

HIS CONNECTION
TO THE SPEED
FORCE MIGHT
RIVAL WALLY'S
IF HE FELT THE
DISTURBANCE
I'M CAUSING.
BUT HOW?

BUT IT WAS
YOU.

KABAM!

WHY
DIDN'T MAX
GET OUT TOO?
IS MAX...

...IS MAX
DEAD?

I DON'T
KNOW,
BART.

BARRY!



IRIS YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE EITHER. YOU CAN'T HELP--

SHE CAN, BARRY.



I'M NOT AN EXPERT ON THE SPEED FORCE LIKE MAX MERCURY WAS, BUT I DO KNOW IT'S MORE THAN JUST FUEL. IT REACTS TO THE STATE OF MIND.

I HELD MYSELF BACK FROM FULL THROTTLE FOR YEARS, AND I WOULD'VE BEEN LOST TO THE SPEED FORCE MYSELF IF IT WASN'T FOR LINDA. SHE'S MY LIGHTNING ROD.

YOU NEED YOURS.



YOU HAVE TO STOP.

IT'S THE SPEED FORCE, IRIS--

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE SPEED FORCE.

I'M TALKING ABOUT BARRY ALLEN.



YOU LIVED FOR RUNNING ACROSS THE ROADS OF AMERICA, RACING INTO PARALLEL WORLDS, AND SPRINTING FROM THE PAST TO THE FUTURE, SOLVING CRIMES AND STOPPING THE BAD GUYS.

BUT YOU ALWAYS TOOK A BREATH. YOU ALWAYS SLOWED DOWN LONG ENOUGH TO SPEND TIME WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.



WITH ME.

"YOU'RE TOO LATE."







KRAAO

JAY

BART

WALLY

HAHAHA
HAL!

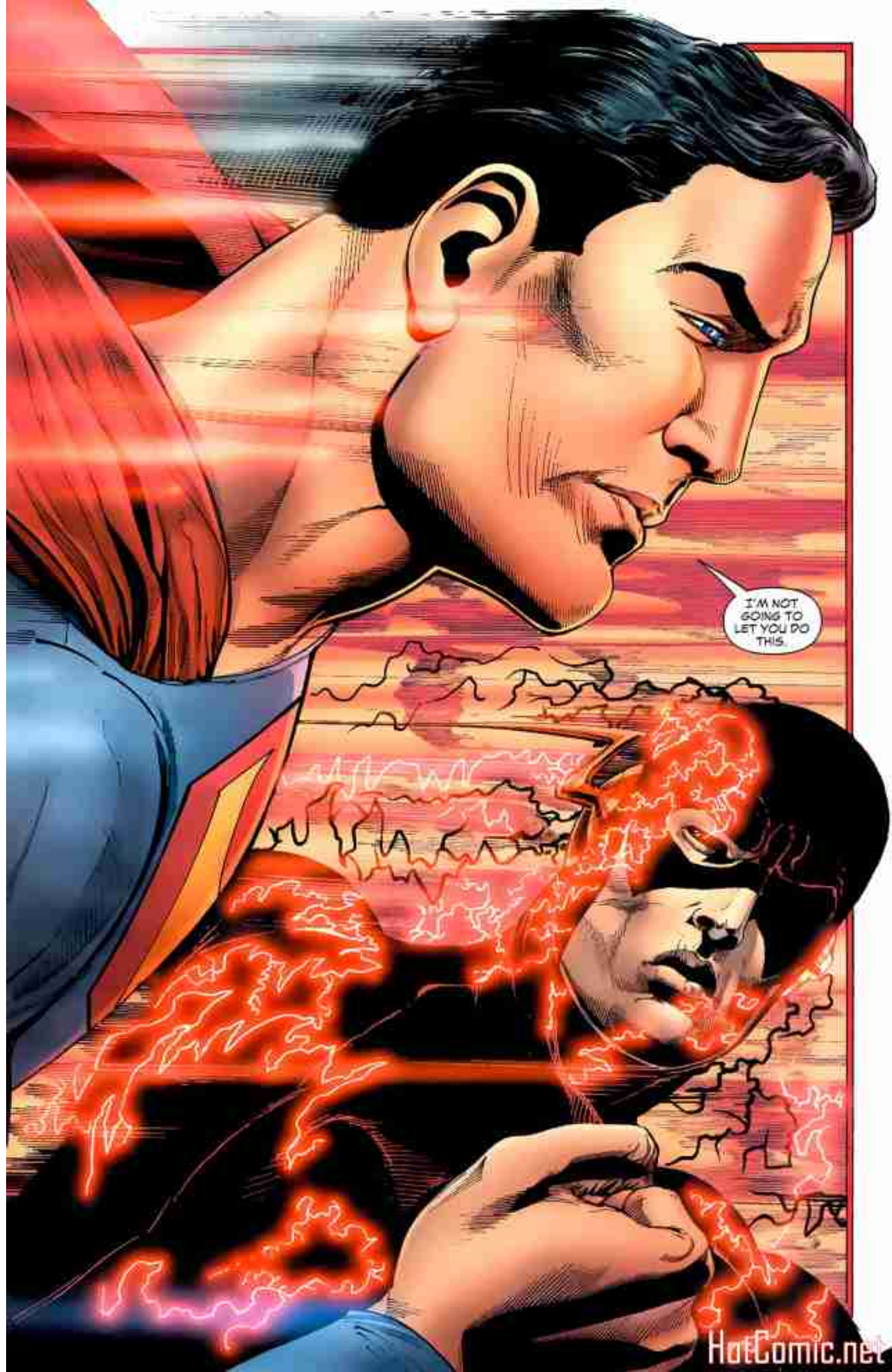
I FEEL IT
REACHING
OUT.

IT WANTS
THEM!









I'M NOT
GOING TO
LET YOU DO
THIS.





ERNN.

A BAND OF MUSCLE
IN MY THIGH
TIGHTENS UP.

A SURGE RIPS
DOWN MY SPINE
AS IT IGNITES.

FLESH TRANSFORMS
INTO ELECTRICITY.

AND I REMEMBER.
I REMEMBER WHAT
HAPPENED WHEN I
BECAME A PART OF
THE SPEED FORCE.



THE HINDU SCRIPTURES OF THE UPANISHADS
DESCRIBE A TRANSPERSONAL AFTERLIFE--
AN INFINITE REALITY CALLED BRAHMAN.

COME ON,
BARRY.
MOVE.

LIKE THE SPEED FORCE,
YOU BECOME A PART OF
THIS ENIGMATIC LIGHT.

AND WHILE THERE'S A SENSE OF
ULTIMATE AWARENESS THAT'S
GAINED, ANSWERS TO
UNANSWERABLE QUESTIONS AND
A PERSPECTIVE ON THE UNIVERSE
AS IF IT WERE AN ANT FARM--



--I'VE LEARNED YOU TRADE
WHO YOU ARE FOR IT.

YOU LOSE ANY
SEMBLANCE OF
INDIVIDUALITY.

I CAN'T BE
LATE.

LATE?
FOR WHAT?



I SHATTER THE COSMIC VIBRATION
THAT UNDERPINS THE UNIVERSE AND
TUNE RUPTURES AROUND ME.

I WATCH MY
LIFE REWIND.

I SEE MY
RETURN.

RLNI



...KEEP RUNNING,
BARRY... GOT TO
KEEP RUNNING...

MY "DEATH."









...JOHNNY?!

M-MAX?!



3X2(9Y2)4A!

THE F-FORMULA.
SPEED AND TIME.
YOU'RE THE
ANSWER.

WHAT?

MY
DAUGHTER,
BARRY!

WHATEVER YOU
DO, PLEASE, DON'T
LET IT HURT MY
DAUGHTER-I



JOHNNY! LET GO!

TELL JESSE
I LOVE HER, AND
TELL LIBBY...

...TELL MY
WIFE...



I NEVER STOPPED
AUSING HER.



MAX, DON'T.
DON'T TOUCH
ME.

I'LL KILL
YOU, I'LL--

N-N-NOT--



...IT'S NOT
YOU.
PROFESSOR--



COME
ON IN.

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
YET, BARRY?

DO YOU NOT
SEE WHAT I'VE
DONE?

I'VE
SHIFTED YOU INTO
REVERSE.

REARVIEW MIRRORS

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Variant Cover Colored by
DAVID MILLER at M-11

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Who said I wanted to kill Dick Grayson?

Oh yeah... that was me. But if you followed the Gotham-shattering events of **BATTLE FOR THE COWL**, you'd know that actually it's quite the opposite. Dick Grayson is now the current and future Batman, having cast aside the masks of Nightwing and Robin so that he can wear the legendary cowl of the caped crusader. And I can't think of a more worthy successor.

When I first admitted that we had planned to kill Dick Grayson (back in the days of **INFINITE CRISIS**), the outcry of support from the fans for the character was loud and strong. In speaking with many of you over the years (including the airport baggage handler who held my luggage "hostage" in exchange for Dick's safety), it became clear that one of the things Nightwing was most loved for was his ability to grow and change with them. They watched the young boy grow to manhood, and go from being a sidekick to being a hero in his own right. So if you were happy when Dick Grayson went from Robin to Nightwing, we're hoping you stand up and cheer with his taking the mantle of Batman. It just seems to make sense.

But that's not the only change we have in store. Tim Drake has given up Robin and taken the name and demeanor of Red Robin, and the heroine under the Batgirl cowl is... well, let's leave that for another column. This is to celebrate the ultimate graduation to becoming the ultimate hero.

With Alfred by his side, a new Robin to train, new gadgets to learn and old and new villains to fight, this is the moment when the Bat Universe embraces everything that has made it great and takes it into exciting new directions.

Dick Grayson, Batman. Happy to have him around.

To be continued.

DO

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